

SAFETY ALERT



AFZF-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



DEC 20 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorpool Accident – Near Catastrophic

1. This past weekend, a III Corps Soldier received severe injuries when he was pinned between two vehicles in the unit's motorpool. The unit completed a multi-day training exercise at a Military Operation on Urban Terrain site and returned to their motorpool in the early evening. Vehicles were being positioned for an early morning convoy to a joint disaster exercise at a nearby training site. As a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) was being positioned behind a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), a Soldier approached the rear of the HMMWV to retrieve equipment. The ground guide gave the halt signal to the HEMTT driver; however, the vehicle did not stop and the Soldier was pinned between the vehicles.
2. This accident reminds us that our routine motorpool tasks inherently contain potential hazards. Situational awareness, strict attention to detail, crew coordination, team communication, and adherence to safe standards are extremely important when operating in close quarters around moving vehicles. We have no room for error when operating in confined spaces and some systems have extremely small safety zones. Individual and crew rest must also be a concern when conducting multi-day missions.
3. One of the cardinal rules of working in the close confines of a motorpool is to not position yourself between an operational vehicle and a stationary vehicle or structure. When moving a vehicle in a motorpool, at least one ground guide is required. Additionally, Soldiers must maintain communication between the vehicle operator and the ground guide(s) at all times. Visual contact between the ground guide and the vehicle operator is essential to personnel safety.
4. Attention to detail could have prevented this near catastrophic accident. We must be relentless at all times regarding the safety of our personnel and equipment. I need your vigilance to keep our teammates alive and well.

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PHANTOM WARRIORS!



DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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